

Message Text

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ACTION MMO-01

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1294

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AODE

SUBJECT: MODE CEILING FOR AID

1. AID ANNUAL BUDGET SUBMISSION FOR FY-79 ENVISAGES INCREASE
IN MODE CEILING FROM PRESENT 64 TO 81. ACCORDING TO
AID DIRECTOR, INCREASE IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO MEET AID
WASHINGTON GUIDELINES WHICH CALL FOR APPRECIABLY HIGHER
LEVEL OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDONESIA IN FY-79.

2. BECAUSE OF LENGTHY RECRUITING PROCEDURES, AID IS SEVEN
SHORT OF PRESENT MODE CEILING. PRESENT MODE CEILING ALSO
INCLUDES FOUR POSITIONS APPROVED FOR TWO-YEAR PERIOD ONLY
UNTIL PRESENT CAPITAL PROJECTS ARE COMPLETED. AID
MISSION DIRECTOR NEVERTHELESS, ANTICIPATING HIGHER LEVEL
OF ASSISTANCE AND HIGHER MANPOWER NEEDS BECAUSE OF LARGER
NUMBER OF SMALL RURAL PROJECTS, WISHES TO BEGIN RECRUITMENT
NOW FOR HIGHER CEILING PROPOSED FOR 1979.

3. I HAVE GIVEN MY APPROVAL TO ANNUAL BUDGET SUBMISSION
FOR FY-1979, BUT WITH UNDERSTANDING THIS DOES NOT IMPLY MY
FORMAL APPROVAL OF INCREASED CEILING AT THIS TIME. IN MY
COMMENTS ON BUDGET SUBMISSION, I HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED VIEW THAT
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IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE HIGHER LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE
BECAUSE OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROBLEMS. I AM NOT UN-
SYMPATHETIC WITH AID NEED FOR ADEQUATE PERSONNEL TO MEET
REQUIREMENTS OF NEW DIRECTIONS AND EXPANDED PROGRAM. CON-
SISTENT, HOWEVER, WITH MY DESIRE TO HOLD STAFF INCREASES IN
MISSION AS WHOLE TO MINIMUM LEVEL REQUIRED, I WOULD PREFER
THAT ANY FORMAL APPROVAL OF INCREASE IN MODE CEILING SHOULD AWAIT

AID/W REVIEW OF PROGRAM AND CLEARER INDICATION, NEARER TO OPENING OF FY79, OF WHAT ACTUAL RATE OF IMPLEMENTATION LIKELY TO BE. I WISH ALSO TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT NUMBER OF CONTRACT AMERICANS WHICH MISSION WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT. AID MISSION DIRECTOR IS CURRENTLY ASSEMBLING THIS INFORMATION.

4. IT IS OBVIOUS FROM THIS POST THAT THERE ARE TWO SEPARATE AND CONFLICTING CURRENTS GOING FORWARD IN WASHINGTON. DESIRE TO CONTAIN AND, IF POSSIBLE, REDUCE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT RUNS CONTRARY TO STRONG PRESSURES FOR MORE PERSONNEL TO HANDLE INCREASED AID PROGRAM WHICH BY NATURE NEW MANDATE REQUIRES MORE PERSONNEL PER DOLLAR. I WOULD APPRECIATE VIEWS OF MANAGEMENT STAFF ON THIS SITUATION, PRESUMABLY AFTER SOME EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO UNDERSTAND AND RECONCILE CURRENT AID PRESSURES WITH STATED OBJECTIVES OF REDUCING OVERSEAS MISSIONS.

NEWSOM

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